Stepped-up flow now may help cut runoff later

PROVO — An increase in water coming out of Deer Creek Reservoir now should help city officials cope with potential spring runoff problems later.

Leland Gamette, administrative assistant to the mayor, said the Provo River Water Users Association has started releasing water from the reservoir.

"That's good news for us because when heavy runoff starts we will already have some of the water out of the reservoir, and this could decrease our flows," Gamette said.

The city had been trying for several weeks to get the association to release water, but association officials were reluctant until they knew the reservoir would be filled this year.

Gamette said the amount of water coming out of the reservoir has doubled in the past week.

"What releasing the water has done is create more storage capacity in the reservoir, and that will really

See RUNOFF on U-2

Runoff

Continued from U-1 help us," Gamette said. "When we reach the peak runoff we are going to need every bit of help that we can get."

Gamette said the city has no flooding problems yet, but runoff has started.

"We are getting water out of all the canyons, but so far we haven't had any problems," Gamette said. "We do know there is a lot of water to come out, so we could end up with problems before it's all over."

He said the next 15 days will show for sure how severe flooding problems will be in the city.

"If we have the warm days and cool nights, we could be just fine," Gamette said. "We are a little ahead of where we were last year, and the Weather Service has given us a 9.4 flood potential rating compared to 9.2 at this same time last year."

Gamette said the Army Corps of Engineers' diking project along Utah Lake that should be finished well ahead of rising lake water. He said the Provo River has been diked and ection.

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Utah County

Utah County births

Orem Community Hospita

ALLRED, Mr. and Mrs. Cha Orem, girl.

DALLON, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Provo, boy.

HYDE, Mr. and Mrs. Garth, Lel boy.

MOSBARGER, Mr. and Mrs. Wliam, American Fork, boy.

Utah Valley Hospital

BURNETT, Mr. and Mrs. Darre West Valley City, girl.

CARTER, Mr. and Mrs. Blain Orem, boy.